Expatriate pilots in India

908. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expatriate pilots working in India;

(b) whether they have been given special treatment; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, 494 expatriate pilots are working in various scheduled airlines in India. Air India and Air India Express have 40 and 54 expatriate pilots respectively. Alliance Air have 20 expatriate pilots while Indian Airlines has no expatriate pilots. The remaining expatriate pilots are employed with private scheduled airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Replacement of ageing aircrafts

†909. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts with Air India and Indian which have been in use for more than 15 years;

(b) the period as per norms for which an aircraft is considered airworthy; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to replace aircrafts which have crossed their usable life period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India and Indian Airlines have in use 13 and 42 aircraft respectively which are more than 15 years in age.

(b) and (c) Aircraft are considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule and programme and all mandatory modifications stipulated by the DGCA as well as regulatory authorities of the aircraft manufacturing countries are carried out regularly. All the aircraft in airlines fleet are maintained to the highest airworthiness standards and meet all the requirements of the regulatory authorities.

Multi airports for Indian cities

910. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large cities in the world have two or three airports serving them;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not encouraging multi-airports for Indian cities like Hyderabad, Delhi, etc. ;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any study has been done on air traffic projections in India for the next 15 years;

(d) if so, in what way will Government try to develop at least two airports for all major urban areas in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to sustain at least two airports for big cities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per the extant policy on Airport Infrastructure, a Greenfield Airport may be permitted where an existing airport is unable to meet the projected requirements of traffic or a new focal point of traffic emerges with sufficient viability. A study has been conducted on air traffic projections in India for the next 15 years. Government have given "in-principle" approval for setting up a greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai. This airport will operate together with the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai. Additional airports would be developed in major cities contingent upon occurence of trigger point in terms traffic growth.

Number of commercial aircrafts and pilots

†911. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered commercial aircrafts at present;

(b) the increase expected in the number of these aircrafts in the coming three years;

(c) whether the number of pilots is less in proportion to the number of flights of the aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, the number of registered commercial aircrafts is 516. An estimated 230 such aircrafts are expected to be added in the coming three years.

(c) and (d) Due to the recent boom in Civil Aviation, airlines are going in for fleet expansion, because of which shortage of trained pilots is being felt by the aviation industry. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under certain prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.